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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5955 South Elm Avenue
Fresno, California 93706

**Set your Clocks back
1 hour on
Saturday Night
November 4th**

Ministry Staff

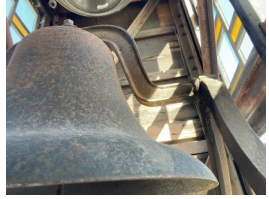
Pastor: Rev. Taylor Stempniak
Office Secretary/Chimes Editor:
Victoria Salwasser
Organist: Laurel Jacobsen

Immanuel's Church Council

President: Mark Salwasser
Vice President: Kristi Hollenbeck
Council Secretary: Allyson Kahn
Financial Secretary: Sharon Reynolds
Treasurer: Pat Griffin
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Deacons: Carol Bennetts, Gina Cogan,
John Jensen, Allyson Nielsen
Women's Ministry President:
Marcia Hollenbeck

Return Service Requested

The Immanuel Chimes November 2023



READ THIS ONLINE AT
www.immanueleaston.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUNDAYS

9:30AM Inter-Generational Sunday School
10:30AM Worship & Communion for Everyone

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church
5955 S. Elm Ave.
Fresno, (Easton) CA 93706

Church Telephone (559) 237-7909

Email: office@immanueleaston.com

Email: Pastor: ptmarie96@gmail.com

Daylight Savings Time Ends November 5th!

Set your clocks back Saturday night Nov. 4th

You won't want to be late for church!

Country Store Nov. 4th & 5th 11:30 –1:30

More Details inside!

**Russ Dunbar Memorial
Blood Drive**

11-5-23 From 8:30am-12:00pm



Pastor's Page

I am haunted by the ghost of Thanksgiving.

No, I don't mean that a turkey wearing a bedsheet rattles chains in my yard or a pilgrim sits on the foot of my bed waiting for me to open my eyes so he can yell "boo." I mean that Thanksgiving is a day so steeped in childhood nostalgia and happiness for me that with each passing year I am treated with a stark reminder that nothing will ever be the same. Thanksgiving was the day that both sets of grandparents converged in my father's hometown where cousins, some I knew well and some of mysterious origin, played football with a raggedy ball in my grandmother's front yard and slipped on fallen pecans. It was a day where we feasted on Turkey but mostly on seven different types of carbs and took naps on couches and carpets and whatever beds we could find. We laughed and bickered and said goodbye in a dreamlike haze.

When the sun set, my family had a second, newer tradition: Tentsgiving. Our second, family, formed not in blood but in baptism gathered in our friend, Margaret's yard, where a large tent was erected and friends from church would gather. We would eat "leftover" turkey sandwiches with cranberry jelly and desserts and roast marshmallows. The kids would play hide and seek or games too complicated for me to follow and we would exist together, grateful for the type of family that can be formed not just in blood but in love.

Now I live a country away from my families. I've tried to make my grandma's oyster dressing but it never comes out right. Luke and I facetime our families instead of watching the parade. To get back home for dinner would be a three-day drive or a twelve-hour flight, and the reality is, even if I got home, neither Thanksgiving nor Tentsgiving is waiting there for me. Like many of you, the holiday season is marked in some ways by absence for me. A grandma and grandpa and cousin who have long since passed away, but I grieve them every year like clockwork. Those absences are hard enough, but there are others that are felt even more sharply. Most of those I once called dear have become strangers to me now, not because of death but because of conflict. The table is small and the tent is not as full as it once was. Divorce, politics, money, greed, pride, and all those little things that become big things drove wedges in those relationships I believed were unbreakable.

I am haunted by the ghost of Thanksgiving.

It took me a while to figure out that I couldn't make peace with this grief by ignoring it or being angry with it or by refusing to cook turkey and cooking something else on Thanksgiving. It took another remedy altogether. It took a second, better, fuller family meal that offered me something I couldn't find even in my grandma's truly exceptional macaroni and cheese: hope.

Sweet Treat on Elm St.

We had a great time on October 29th celebrating costumes and candy and games and prizes! Pastor and Dino Luke had kids digging for dinosaur eggs full of candy. Doc Kahn and his mini donkeys, Daybar, Talita and Jemimah were loving all the attention of the day. It was super fun to decorate mini pumpkins and find the treat under the buckets. The hot dog table got a lot visitors from Mr. Ketchup and Miss Mustard. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped the kids enjoy time outside in beautiful weather!



Tutoring Available

Miss Fran's Online Tutoring

I have been enjoying working with students aged 3 years old through fifth grade for two years now through my online tutoring service. I provide support in the areas of speech and language. I am expanding my business by providing new services. I am available to speak to preschool programs and home school programs regarding age appropriate speech and language development, and provide them the support and resources they need to support their students in the classroom setting. Private consultations can be arranged for individual families as well.

Do you know of a preschool or home school program whose staff might be interested in my program? Please let them know I am available! Do you know any families who are concerned about their child's speech and language development? I can help!

For individual families, I offer a free one hour consultation that includes interviews and observations. Resources and recommendations will be made if needed, including providing help with reaching out to other entities that work with children exhibiting a significant delay. This service is available to families whose children are one year old and older.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Feel free to share this information with family and friends.

Thank you,
Fran Hansen
missfrantutoring@gmail.com
559-419-0030



The Nexus Institute

The NEXUS Institute is one of 92 high school youth theology institutes funded by the Lilly Endowment, under the oversight of the Forum for Theological Enrichment. NEXUS exists to transform the landscape of the Lutheran Church through innovative and intentional development of young adults who want to be more involved in the nexus of faith, life, and the church.

The institute is a life-changing opportunity where young adults engage in theological learning, leadership development, and vocational discernment, all in the context of intentional Christian community, and are sent out to transform their local communities.

Brochures are available in the church entryway.

There is another feast day in November. It happens at the very beginning. The church celebrates All Saint's Day on November 1st (because we have a hard time getting y'all here during the week, we celebrate the first Sunday in November instead) and we celebrate it not just by reading the names of those who've died in the previous year and lighting a candle or ringing a bell in their honor, but with Holy Communion. We set the table. We have a family meal. This meal is different. There's not turkey and cranberries and mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. There's bread and wine, but Our Savior made it very clear that this is more than just bread and wine. This is His Body and His Blood. This is a family meal where our God Himself shows up, and that means something miraculous takes place.

If God is showing up at our meal, then all those who are present with Him show up too. The reason that Holy Communion is celebrated every All Saints Day is we are inviting Christ Himself, and all the Saints alongside Him to be present in our lives. My grandma and grandpa and cousin. Your grandma and aunt and that sweet old man down the street that gave you a hard candy when you saw him. Every saint that touched your life and has gone on before us into the Church Triumphant, meets us at this meal, where heaven and earth converge at God's own table. At this table, death is no more. At this table, there are no empty seats.

And restoration is not just promised for those relationships that have been temporarily severed by the hands of time. I mean that for those relationships that have been severed by our own sin. We are prompted by this meal to reach out to those who we have hurt and those who have hurt us. Before we come to the table, we are asked to share the peace with them and leave behind old hurts, but when we do not have the strength to do that, we still are offered a glimpse of hope at God's table. When I come to the table of the Lord, those people I've wounded and those people who have wounded me come with me. My family—the family born of blood and baptism—is invited to this meal alongside me and that altar rail stretches all the way from California to Carolina. In fact, that altar rail stretches forward and backwards in all time. In that space, at the table of God, we who have been broken apart are united once again in a forgiveness and grace that is not our own. We are united in a foretaste, a sneak peek, of what eternal life will look like. At this table, there are no more hardened hearts. At this table, God mends broken bodies and broken bonds.

The holiday season, both the secular holidays and the religious holidays, can be a season of tremendous joy and gratitude and tremendous grief. My hope for each of you is that you are surrounded by people in your life who will allow you to be sincere in whatever it is you're feeling as we head into Thanksgiving and Christmas, and that if you need to take time to mourn people or relationships you will do so with honesty, but you will do so also

with hope. This month, let us take time to give thanks for what we've been blessed with and gather with family or just gather around a good meal. Let us set tables with turkey and potatoes or whatever it is that fills your stomach and hearts. Let us find comfort in bonds formed in family or in love and rejoice where they are formed in both, but let us also answer the invitation to the table of the Lamb. Here at this table, let us set aside the ghosts of grief, lay down the heaviness of our sin, and rejoice for in the hope of a very special family meal. Here in this place, at this table, we are knit together as God's own people, in God's own presence, in God's own kingdom, in joy and gratitude and anticipation as we await the day where the altar rail is not just a family reunion, a holiday, a place of respite, but every day and eternal feast for you and me and the saints and Savior we long for.

Wishing you All Saints Blessings,
Pastor Taylor

Journey

So this is a shotgun Journey month. I have a few things I want to mention that aren't necessarily related to each other.

1. November brings the Thanksgiving Eve service. For as many years as I can remember Immanuel has hosted the Thanksgiving Eve service. This will be on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. Mark your calendars now, right now. Look for the time elsewhere in this Chimes edition. This service sets the mood for the rest of the year. We focus on the grace and mercy that God has shown us this year and all of our years. The mission, formerly known as the Rescue Mission, will be with us and Director Matt Dildine will bring a couple of people who have received the renewing joy of knowing Jesus. Do not check your emotions at the door, you will be in tears hearing the testimonies of those who have recently experienced what we talk about throughout the year. The joy of knowing our Savior in a personal way. For those of us who worked at the Caruthers Fair in the food booth, this is pay back for sore feet, sore backs and smelling like BBQ sauce for a week. We live in such a cynical world that we sometimes deprive ourselves of the joy of helping someone, in a real way, who wasn't able to help themselves. You will take away more than anything you can bring. Do it for yourself.

2. The nominating committee will be convening in early November. Our mission is to put forth candidates for the offices of the church council. The primary qualification is a willingness to serve. A willingness to speak your mind. Your opinion will be valid and valued. This would be



There is never a dull moment during corn shucking night. Mark your calendars for next year, the last Tues. in Sept.



With smiles this joyful you see Jesus shining through their servants hearts knowing the goodness of this ministry.



Kay wins the title for senior corn shucker of the year! Avery wins the title for youngest corn shucker of the year. Gail gets the long haul title this year she came from Sacramento to shuck corn. It looks like everyone had a great time for a great cause! Who can resist a rib dinner like that?

The 20th year for Immanuel's booth is in the books! The first Caruthers Fair was held in 1923! The group of farmers that put it together hoped to break even but ended up with a profit of \$165.00 to put towards the next year's fair. Through this 100 year span some years there were no fairs, but after the war in the 1940's the soldiers returned home and made sure the fair was put back in motion. Thank you again to those soldiers because this California Free Gate Fair is one of a kind. It's in our neighboring community and we get to be a part of this awesome event!

This year like every year had it's challenges. Their website crashed about two weeks before the fair started and the team of board members got the site up and running within the week. The fair board members are all volunteers!

The overall fair attendance seemed slower this year, our food booth was steady all week. The long hot afternoons were slow with customers but busy in the back cooking pull pork and ribs for the delicious dinners we serve.

The Corn Shucking was done on Tuesday night with 20 volunteers from the ages of 5 through 88! We had 20 volunteer shuckers, and that sounds like a lot but if we have a booth at the fair next year, let's shoot for 40 volunteer shuckers. It's too much fun not to share the work with more of our strong friends. We also might like to recruit some weight lifters to join our work out days at the booth. Those cases of corn and pull pork are getting heavier every year.

The daily grind continued from 7:00AM—11:00PM each day. With sales consistent with the previous years and very happy customers. We were blessed with lots of compliments about our delicious food again this year.

There is no telling how many prayers or cookie bakers we had for this years adventure. Thank you for your cookies, I think we might be JD Foods favorite customer. However you helped you were appreciated. We know there were 65 different volunteers physically helping at the fair through the week. Thank you for your time, energy, purchases and prayers that kept us going, kept us safe, and kept us focused on the reason for this project.

In 2023 we earned a profit of \$23, 578.23. That brings total donations from the 20 years of fair booths for the mission ministry to \$235, 431.83. Think of the generations that have put their feet to the pavement for this ministry. This year Aubrey came out to sell doughnuts and help put on table cloths, she is the 4th generation of helpers from the Nielsen family. Her great-grandpa Glenn Nielsen, was one of the pioneers of the booth, her grandpa Mike, her father, Karl, and now Aubrey are helping with the booth. It's an amazing mission.

We all benefit from the testimonies shared with us on Thanksgiving Eve every year. The funds that help the mission operate and make those testimonies real are the fruits of the spirit. It's our joy to serve our community at the local fair and to give to a cause greater than we pray we will ever know.

We loved working with all of you, Mark & Victoria

service to your congregation. We on council do not see ourselves as the elite, we see ourselves as the servants to our congregation. Be in prayer now. Talk to the Pastor about your willingness to serve and where you feel you might fit in. It's important and you are important to the process. Yes, it takes a little effort. I assure you the rewards will outweigh the costs.

3. Reading through the Bible in a year. Prepare yourselves mentally now. It takes a little discipline. You'll need to set aside a period of time each day to read a prescribed portion of the Bible. There are literally hundreds of way to do it. You can read any version. You can read chronologically; the order it was written. You can read it as you find it in your Bible. You can read the Old Testament then the New. You can read a bit of old and a bit of new each day. Many versions have an audio version, so that you can listen as opposed to read. Ask the Pastor or Victoria or myself and we will assist you. And remember if you miss a day or two it's not all lost. Make up the days and carry on.

4. We have lost a lot of saints from among us this year. In most cases that means someone remains. Every day can be hard but the stretch to the end of the year is especially hard. Pick someone you know who has lost someone this year. If they come to Immanuel, make it a point to say hi to them each week. If they don't come to Immanuel, make it a point to call or text them regularly and tell them they are in your thoughts and prayers. It makes a difference. Think they may be spending Thanksgiving or Christmas alone, invite them to join you.

5. Lastly. Thank you all for letting me do this. Your kind words keep me going. This Journey has been so therapeutic for me. It forces me to think about the things in my heart. I know I can't touch all of you every month, but a few of you each month is all it takes. If you'd like me to speak to something, let me know. If you'd like to take a month sometime tell me, that would be great too. It's always gratifying to hear your comments.

A song I've heard so many times over the last few months and is just so comforting. Written by Carl Boberg in 1885.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee.
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

John

Travel Adventures

Heading North *By Laurel Jacobsen*

In July, Randy and I headed to the far north of Europe for a cruise vacation in which most of the places we visited had a population much smaller than our cruise ship population. We left from Reykjavik, Iceland and visited 4 ‘towns’ in the north of Iceland, then went to Spitzbergen (part of the Svalbard Islands), then to the north of Norway (Finnmark). Rather than go into too much detail, I will just share highlights of the trip.

Having had many exchange students over the years, they have become family. We visited Ibrahim (Egypt) in Washington D.C., Heidi in Iceland, and Hans and his extended family in Trondheim, Norway. They have all grown up and now have children of their own.

We arrived in Longyearbyen (Spitzbergen..78th Parallel North) on a Sunday. Longyearbyen (part of Norway) is a former coal mining town and more polar bears live in the surrounding area than people in town. In fact, if you are a resident, you must carry a gun. There are very few cars, just fancy snow mobiles with a built in gun case so your gun is protected from the weather. We worshipped in the most northern church in the world in Longyearbyen while we were there. It was a Lutheran church and one thing I enjoy about worshiping in other countries is the unity in Christ that is definitely sensed when you are with brothers and sisters in Christ, regardless of what their nationality is or what language they speak. As typical of Lutherans, there was a coffee time after the service where we enjoyed the fellowship. There is even a stuffed polar bear in the church social hall.

In the northern part of Norway, we were treated to reindeer who think the streets were made for them. During WWII, the Nazis burned almost every town in the north of Norway so much of what is there now is new. The Norwegians are resilient and there are many new churches with beautiful and meaningful Christian art and symbolism. We also enjoyed our time meeting and learning of the Sami people, a native tribe that is known for managing reindeer herds in the far north of Europe.

I have attached a picture of a church preserved from the early 15th Century in Norway. After the Reformation (1517) Scandinavia became Lutheran.



ing that all true healing is found in You alone. Lord, may Your boundless love lead us through these dark times towards a horizon of hope, understanding, and enduring peace.

Help us to never lose sight of the promises we have in Jesus and to never lose hope in the One who, through His cross and resurrection from the dead, has secured our lives eternally. In the holy and precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.

But take heart! I have overcome the world.” – John 16:33 NIV

In Christ’s service,
The Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Selbo
Bishop, North American Lutheran Church



How to Pray In light of the ongoing crisis in Israel and the Gaza Strip, we invite you to join us in fervent prayer, imploring God's mercy, healing, and peace over the distressed lands and peoples:

1. For the Wounded: Pray for all those who have been injured by rocket fire or terrorist gunfire, that God’s healing hand may rest upon them, bringing physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.
2. For the Kidnapped: Uphold in prayer more than 130 reportedly kidnapped Israelis, including men, women, children, soldiers, and civilians. Pray for their safe return and for God’s comforting presence with their anguished families.
3. For the Grieving Families: Pray for God's grace and comfort to be with all grieving families, especially the many children who are caught up in the horror of these events. May the Lord provide for their physical needs and restore their peace.
4. For Our Servant Leaders: Ask for perseverance, wisdom, and calm for our mission partners as they serve amid fear and uncertainty. Pray for safe passage and divine protection for all who are in or traveling to the affected areas.
5. For Upcoming Mission and Travel Engagements: Pray for discernment for those in the NALC with upcoming trips scheduled to visit the region—for wisdom on how to proceed amidst the volatile circumstances.
6. For Our Leadership: Pray for the leadership at NALC as they continue to assess how best to respond to the unfolding situation, seeking God’s guidance in every decision.
7. For Our Youth and Responders: Especially intercede for young people from local communities who are part of response teams serving as soldiers or medics in harm’s way.
8. For the Residents of Gaza: We have heard countless stories of individuals who are frightened and fearful for their lives. Pray for God’s protection, peace, and provision for them amidst the turmoil.
9. For Border Peace: Pray that the borders will remain secure, and that steps towards lasting peace will prevail over forces of destruction and despair.

May our earnest intercessions rise as a pleasing aroma before the throne of grace, and may God’s peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

From Bishop Dan Selbo

Dear Pastors, Congregations, Partners in Ministry, Sisters and Brothers in Christ, In the wake of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, which is also emerging in other parts of the region, our hearts are heavy with sorrow and concern for the people and the nations involved. An abrupt offensive led by Hamas, has resulted in an escalation of violence that has caused abhorrent suffering for countless individuals, families, and communities.

The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) unequivocally condemns the violent actions of any terrorist group, as well as all forms of antisemitism found throughout the world. In contrast, we advocate for peace, justice, and the sanctity of all human life. We believe in the power of prayer and the potential of human hearts to move towards reconciliation and peace under the divine guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We stand with all those in the region who yearn for peace. We pray for the safety and wellbeing of all its inhabitants, remembering that we have brothers and sisters in Christ living in Israel, as well as in other Arab nations including Palestine, who find themselves in dire circumstances amidst the turmoil.

We are mindful of the complex history and deep-rooted tensions that permeate the region. Yet, we ardently pray for an end to the hostilities and for a sustainable resolution that honors the dignity, security, and rights of all individuals. We call upon the leaders involved to act with wisdom, compassion, and a genuine desire for lasting peace.

We invite our pastors, congregations, and partners in ministry to unite in fervent prayer for peace in Israel, Gaza, and the surrounding region, for the illumination and guidance of the leaders involved, and for humanitarian aid to reach those in desperate need. Let us all be praying for a future where enmity is replaced with understanding, oppression with justice, and despair with hope, under the sovereign grace of our loving and Triune God.

I encourage our congregations to be places where our doors are open for comfort and prayer for all of God's people, and where the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, revealed to us in His life, death, and resurrection from the dead for our sin are abundantly present and found.

The following prayer is offered for your use, individually, as families, and in your congregations:

Gracious God, in a world overshadowed by sin and strife, we come before You with heavy hearts, seeking Your divine mercy and peace for the people living in Israel, the Gaza Strip, and the surrounding regions. We pray for the leaders of the nations, that their hearts may be stirred towards justice, reconciliation, and the well-being of all people.

We pray for those whose lives have been lost, for those torn from their homes and families, as well as for those who are being held hostage in this brutal conflict.

We pray for comfort, protection, and healing for wounded spirits and bodies, know-

We enjoyed eating delicacies such as Gjetost (Goat brown cheese) reindeer sausage, and lefse. But, as always, it is good to be home as, "there is no place like home."

Wonderful Time in Honduras!

By Donna Ewing

Donna & Dale Ewing headed to Honduras in September to visit their son Taylor and their daughter-in-law, Lyndee to experience their life & work with **Leadership Mission International**, which exists to provide educational and leadership development programs to women in Honduras. LMI envisions graduates becoming ethical leaders influencing positive change throughout their communities and country. As of 2023, 92% of LMI graduates have taken jobs, started a business, or entered a University within two years graduating from LMI.

After traveling almost 2 hours into the hills from the airport and closest city, Comayagua, they were greeted with 60 hugs and lots of smiles at the campus. What a way to start any experience!

Definitely not the type of campus we are used to in the states, but it had what is needed to help the young women towards a better future and life. So much joy and peace at this place. It was amazing!

After a week learning about the beautiful countryside and the goings on at LMI, they traveled on to the island of Roatan where daughter Emily joined them to experience tropical beauty at it's best. The whole family was together and had a great time!



From our retired missionary, Jan Kersgaard,

Dear friends and relatives at Immanuel,

I want to thank you for your prayers and support through many years.

I had hoped to visit you this fall but during the spring it became evident that my traveling days had come to an end. Weakness and slurred speech and lack of volume that began a year ago began to increase rapidly. Finally in May I was diagnosed with ALS, It became clear that I could no longer care for my home and garden. I was no longer cooking. I decided that it was time to move. On July 4th I moved into assisted living. I have a studio apt. 319 sq ft. I still look after myself but help is here when I need it. My house went on the market August 9th and closed Sept 1st. It was a lot of work sorting through years of memories. My brother had to do most of the work. So now he can rest.

Many of you don't know me. My mother grew up at Immanuel. Her cousins were Betty Jensen and all their relations. A good friend of hers that shared cousins was Virginia Merhten. So I have known Deanna Dunbar and Kathi Merhten all my life.

When I went to Pakistan in 1977 as a nurse midwife, with the World Mission Prayer League, Immanuel supported me and I often visited on home assignment.

I returned to the US in 2009 and you have continued to pray for me and support me. I am truly grateful. I have returned to Tank, Pakistan three times for one to three months, in 2013, 2016 and 2020. I taught students each time and was able to connect with old friends.

Now I have had to give up some independence. I no longer drive and I sit a lot. But thankfully my hand still work and I can text and email, though I don't speak clearly. I have been so blessed all my life. God is faithful!! The scriptures about God's blessings and Jesus' return have been especially meaningful. II Corinthians 5:4 "... So that what is mortal may be swallowed up by LIFE" !!! What we have waiting for us is so much more than we can even imagine!

So thank you for your prayers and your support through many years. Great is His Faithfulness!!

Jan Kersgaard

Sew and Craft Events with Laura Nielsen at Immanuel!

Quilts & Crafts & More sale November 4 & 5. Women's Fundraising Event for our Social Hall Renovation. Ladies, right after Tea with Taylor at the Presbyterian church, walk over to Immanuel's social hall and do some shopping at the Country Store, 11:00-12:00. Everyone is welcome to shop Sunday after worship from 12:00-1:00 If you have crafts or baked items you want displayed for sale, please bring them before the tea Saturday or worship on Sunday. Call Laura Nielsen for more information

Laura Nielsen has planned a Christmas Craft Day for the Kids of Immanuel on Dec 10th from 9:30-10:15AM in Grace Hall. If you plan to attend please let Laura know so we are sure to have plenty of craft supplies available for all ages. Volunteers to help with children's crafts would be appreciated.

Laura Nielsen is a crafter, quilter and seamstress and want's to share her gifts with Immanuel. She is will be planning a Saturday Sew Day in January and invites all sewers, crafters, and seamstresses to gather together and work on a mission project. Please read the December Chimes for the date and details.

Community Choir on Thanksgiving Eve

This year Mark Lanford from Easton Presbyterian Church will be leading a community choir. The practices will be the first three Wednesdays in November at 7:00PM at Easton Presbyterian Church and on the fourth Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, practice will be at 6:30PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church. If you like to sing, here is your chance! Join the community of Easton singing praises for the Thanksgiving Eve service.

We are planning to have our Country Gospel Band perform on Thanksgiving Eve as well would you like to help with that? See Fran Hansen. There will be lots of great music at our annual Thanksgiving Eve service. If you don't drive at night, invite someone who does to bring you, and you will all be blessed. We gather to give thanks and praise to the Lord.



Let's Give Thanks!

It's your chance to be a star in the Easton Bell Choir!

Easton's Churches Invite You To A Thanksgiving Eve Service

**Wednesday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church**

Corner of Elm and Lincoln, Easton

***The Fresno Mission Will Share
True Stories of Thanksgiving***

**Non-perishable food and monetary donations
are welcome to benefit the Fresno Mission**

**Coffee and Fellowship Following the Service
*Bring a Pie to Share!***



Immanuel & FCA Lunches

Friends, it's time to get ready for Immanuel's turn to host the FCA lunches for 2023/24. This is a great opportunity to welcome student/athletes from WUHS onto our church campus for lunch while they listen to a guest speaker. We will be hosting November 29 and December 6 & 13. I would love for you to consider helping with this important Washington Union-Easton ministry even if you can't make it each day. Please let me know which day you are able to help so I can plan enough coverage. I am happy to answer any questions you might have. We typically meet around 10/10:30 to start prepping for lunch at 12:25.

This year we would like to give every student a chocolate chip cookie for dessert. If you are willing and able to donate chocolate chip cookies with NO nuts for this ministry, it would truly help. Please bring the cookies to Immanuel by Tuesday prior or place the cookies in the freezer marked FCA on Sunday mornings, notating the number of cookies on your containers helps us quickly count supplies. This year I am planning for over 300 guests each week since this is the number other churches have been serving. This is one ministry that has really grown since we moved the tables outside during the pandemic.

Fellowship Luncheons

Thank you to everyone involved with the Fellowship Luncheons. We've been gathering on the 4th Thursday of the month for a year now! We won't meet this month since the 4th Thursday of the month is Thanksgiving. We will gather again on December 28th for the End of Year /New Year Celebration. Please mark your calendars and sign up on the bulletin board in the church entryway. Invite your friends for lunch. This is a great time for sharing Immanuel with those who need a little something to do, bring your friends to gather and spend time together.

If you would like to help with this ministry please let us know. We encourage more participation and entertainment. If volunteers would like to work on helping find entertainment for this ministry please contact the church office with how you would like to help with the Fellowship luncheons.

Prayer Focus Each Week

Week of 11-6-2023. **Focus on thanksgiving for our veterans. Colossians 3:17** NIV. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Week of 11-13-2023. **Focus on being thankful all the time. 1 Thessalonians 5:16,17,18** NIV. Rejoice always, pray continuously, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Week of 11-20-2023. **Focus on Thanksgiving. Psalms 100:4** NIV. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise, give thanks to him and praise his name.

Week of 11-27-2023. **Focus on thanksgiving. 1 Chronicles 16:34** NIV. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Music During Advent & Christmas!

It's time to start preparing for Advent and Christmas! I would like to put together a choir piece for our morning Christmas Eve service. Please watch the bulletin for all the details. It would also be wonderful if some of us could provide special music during Advent. Please let me know if you are interested. I would be happy to help you. I'm looking for solos, duets, trios, or small group special music. Let's get ready to sing about the birth of our Savior!

Singing His Praises,
Fran Hansen

Praise Band Music!

Immanuel would like to thank the praise band for their time and performances during worship. If you would like to volunteer to perform with the praise band, and help with the Country Gospel style songs we enjoyed so much in August please call the church office to get on the music email list. There are so many of you with musical talent that we would love for you to share it with us. There are opportunities coming up at the Thanksgiving Eve Service and during Advent, Christmas, and Lenten seasons. Practice is usually before church on Sunday mornings. If you like to sing and play music, please share your gifts with us.

Immanuel Women's Ministry

Immanuel's women's ministry has had a couple of fun events the past months and have more coming up. On September 16th, a group of about 20 women gathered in Grace Hall for a continental breakfast. We all enjoyed muffins, yogurt, coffee and juice. Jackie Caglia led us in a devotional on 'Embracing the Season We are In'. That got us in the mood for the approaching fall. After that we all painted some fun projects lead by Vashie Miller. Vashie had provided a few options for the upcoming holidays and we all painted our projects. It was a really fun event and we hope to plan another event in the spring/summer.



On October 21st a small but mighty group of ladies met up at Kuppa Joy in Fresno. We enjoyed our coffee, some food, and good company. I led a devotional on 'Putting and Keeping Christ in the Center of our Lives'. After our devotional, some of us left but 5 of us trekked out to the Forstiere Underground Gardens. We took a great tour along with a woman who was celebrating her 89th birthday. She was there with 4 of her 8 kids, 2 of their spouses, and 2 grandkids. They were a great Christian family and we really enjoyed our tour together. It is truly amazing what one man built underground to survive in the Fresno heat.

Upcoming Events!

We have 2 fun events coming soon so mark your calendar:

On Wednesday night, November 15th, we are having a Meet and Swap (not a Swap Meet). All of us have been blessed with so much. We are going to gather together for a Souper Potluck. Bring some soup or a dessert for the potluck. We will share in a devotional. We will also bring some of our excesses to swap. Categories to swap are clothes, kitchen, books, and puzzles. Anything leftover at the end of the night will be donated to the Fresno Mission after the Thanksgiving Eve service.

On Sunday, December 3rd, after church we are sponsoring a family event. We will caravan to the Hillcrest Tree Farm in Reedley. They have food trucks there for lunch, a train ride and we can pick our own fresh tree if we want.

Country Store
Saturday & Sunday
Immanuel Lutheran
Church Social Hall
November 4th & 5th
11:30 AM—1:30PM
Quilts and Crafts
Profits Support
The Social Hall
Renovation Fund

November Birthdays

- 2-Emerson Linger
- 3-Jennifer Perez
- 5-Sandy Britter
- 6-Ericka Gardner
- 10- Jim Hansen
- 11-Michael Scheidt
- 13-Noah Cisneros
- 15-Susan Stiltz
- 17-Terry Gardner
- Andrew Nielsen
- Tori Tarlton
- Dylan Harding
- 20-Dan Lindsey
- 23-Laura Nielsen

NOVEMBER



Member's Celebration
Wedding Anniversaries 2023

- 4 -Robert & Kaylee Hollenbeck(6)
- 14 - Jack & Bev Reed (64)
- 21- Steve & Margaret Fletcher (31)

Baptismal Birthdays

- 4-Irma Orozco
- 8-Betty Moore
- Matthew Nielsen
- Christian Johnson
- 14-Meghan Anderson
- 13-Logan Harding
- 28-Beverly Hansen

Prayers for our Church Family & Friends

For Christ's Church: Eternal God, we thank You for Your Church through which the gospel of Jesus Christ has been manifest in every age.

Members and their families serving in the military: Erica Botello, Canaan Campbell, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Ryan Freitas, Michael Hansen, Leah Linger, Connor Mannix, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

Those unable to travel about: Gail Hansen, Paul Pedersen, & Kenneth Selzer, Bonnie Terkelsen.

Those in need of pain relief & healing: Carol Bennetts, Gordon Bennetts, Sophie Brewer, Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Crystal Burns, Gaye Cissel, Steve Fletcher, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Pat Griffin, Jim Hansen, Jan Kersgaard, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Marcus Miranda, Betty Moore, Gloria Payne, Elizabeth Petersen, Larry Pick, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Janice Robinson, Rebecca Stempniak, & Keitt Wilson.

News Notes for November

Happy Belated Birthday to Barbara Allan who had her birthday on October 26th. We celebrated with her at the Fellowship Luncheon.

Happy 79th Birthday to Sandy Britter on November 5th and Happy 77th birthday to Terry Gardner on November 17th.


December Chimes Deadline will be on Friday, November 17th.

Fellowship Servers, Tech Volunteers and Scripture Readers are appreciated each week. Thank you to all who serve.



Waterfall that is walking distance from where Taylor & Lyndee Ewing live and the campus where they work in Honduras.

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Easton Community Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00PM at Immanuel with our guests from the Fresno Mission! Donations of food, blankets and clothing for the mission will be collected in the narthex and a pie potluck will be shared following the service in the social hall. A free will offering is taken during the service for the mission. Please make checks payable to Fresno Mission.</p>			<p>1 St.Jude Hosts FCA lunch</p> <p>Community Choir Practice at Easton Pres.</p>	2	<p>3 Easton Food Distribution 12:00-2:00pm</p>	<p>4 9:30AM Pastor Taylor speaks at Easton Presbyterian Church for "Tea With Taylor"</p> <p>Country Store at Immanuel 11:00am-12:00pm</p>
<p>5 End of Daylight Savings Time- Fall Back 1 hour</p> <p>8:30-12:00PM Blood Drive! 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am All Saints Day Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Country Store at Immanuel 12:00pm-1:00pm</p>	<p>6 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p>7 9:00AM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>8 St.Jude Hosts FCA lunch</p> <p>Community Choir Practice at Easton Pres.</p>	9	10	<p>11 Veteran's Day</p> <p>9:30AM Downtown Fresno Veteran's Day Parade.</p>
<p>12 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion</p> <p>12:00pm Congregational Prayer Time in the Sanctuary.</p>	<p>13 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p>14 9:00AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00PM Church Council meets in Grace Hall</p>	<p>15 St. Jude Hosts FCA lunch Ladies</p> <p>6:00 PM Women's Meet & Swap Community Choir Practice at Easton Pres.</p>	16	<p>17 December Chimes Deadline</p>	18
<p>19 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion</p>	<p>20 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p>21 9:00AM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>22  7:00PM Thanksgiving Eve Service</p>	23 Thanksgiving Day!	24	25
<p>26 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion</p>	<p>27 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p>28 9:00AM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>29 ILC Hosts FCA lunch</p>	30	<p>December 1</p>	<p>2 NA Reserved Social Hall 4:00-8:00PM</p>